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A heartbroken Nepal team acknowledges the Mumbai crowd after their match against England on Sunday. They lost the match by four runs | AFP | P13

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## KEY PACTS SIGNED

- Semiconductor cooperation
- Audio-visual co-production
- Disaster management cooperation
- Social security for Indian workers in Malaysia
- UPI-based digital payments
- Cooperation in defence, healthcare & medicine, and tourism sectors
- Dedicated Thiruvalluvar Centre at Universiti Malaya
- Thiruvalluvar Scholarships for Malaysian nationals

# No compromise and no double standards on terrorism: Modi

India, Malaysia stress strategic trust, sign deals in key sectors to strengthen ties

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

India's stance on terrorism is firm and uncompromising, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday after holding wide-ranging talks with Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim.

"On terrorism, our message is clear: no double standards, no compromise. In the field of security, we will strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, and maritime security. We will expand defence cooperation," Modi said Modi at a joint press briefing with Ibrahim.

The joint statement issued after the bilateral talks explicitly condemned cross-border terrorism, signalling both leaders' shared commitment to tackling threats that cross national boundaries.

"The two Prime Ministers unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. They called for zero tolerance of terrorism and for concerted international efforts to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner," said the joint statement.

For India, cross-border terrorism refers to terrorism coming from Pakistan.

During Modi's two-day visit to Kuala Lumpur, a series of agreements were signed to deepen bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors including defence and security, technology, and trade.

During the press briefing, Modi also highlighted New Delhi's strategic trust with Kuala Lumpur. "Along with AI and digital technologies, we will further our collaboration in semiconductors, health, and food security," he said.

Modi also interacted with leading business leaders in Malaysia. "The CEO Forum has opened up new opportunities for trade and investment. We will chart the way to economic transformation through strategic trust," Modi added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim in Kuala Lumpur | PTI

### Counter terrorism

The joint statement spelled out a detailed agenda to counter radicalisation and violent extremism, combat financing of terrorism, and prevent misuse of emerging technologies for terror purposes

**India's rise on the global trade and economic front has provided new momentum for Malaysia-India cooperation**

Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysian Prime Minister

# Caste no barrier for successor: Bhagwat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

AT RSS' centenary programme in Mumbai, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said the organisation follows merit-based advancement without caste quotas, clarifying that while the next Sarsanghchalak must be a Hindu, caste is irrelevant. Belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes is no disqualification, nor is being a Brahmin any qualification for leading the RSS, he said.

Speaking at the two-day lecture series "100 Years of Sangh Journey - New Horizons," Bhagwat said visitors from different countries are studying RSS activities to replicate the model for their youth. He emphasised that RSS is apolitical and not opposed to anyone, describing "Hindu" as an adjective encompassing all Indians rather than a noun.

The Mumbai lecture saw a posse of Bollywood bigwigs in attendance, including Ranbir Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Salman Khan, Vicky Kaushal, BJP MP Hema Malini and others.

Speaking about the Sangh's journey, Bhagwat said: "The Sangh has not emerged in competition with any other organisation.The Sangh neither seeks popularity nor power."

He said the Sangh had asked him to continue working, and that he would step down whenever it asks him to.

# Navy's marine engine programme likely to get govt nod this week

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

THE Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is likely to approve an indigenous marine engine development programme for the Indian Navy when it meets later this week, this newspaper has learnt. The proposal is expected to be taken up under the Make-I category of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, which provides government funding support for indigenous design and development of critical defence technologies.

Sources said four prototype engines are planned, with a minimum order quantity of 40 engines envisaged initially. The Navy is looking at developing a marine gas turbine in the 24-28 MW power class for main propulsion systems used on large surface combatants such as destroyers and frigates. At present, the Navy's frontline warships rely on foreign-origin gas turbine-based propulsion systems from Ukraine's Zorya-Mashproekt and US firm General Electric. Sources said the overall programme would need ₹4,000-5,000 crore investment, with the government expected to cover up to 70% of prototype development cost.

## FARE HIKE
### METRO PUTS IT ON HOLD

The proposed 5 per cent fare hike was scheduled to take effect Monday. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has now kept it on hold until further orders. A final decision would be taken after a review by the Board. It is said BMRCL kept the fare hike on hold following instructions from the Central government | P2

# Prehistoric human skeletons excavated in Ballari district

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

RESEARCHERS have found two prehistoric human skeletons during an ongoing excavation at Gaudra Moole Hill in Tekkalakote town of Ballari district.

The excavation is being carried out by a team led by Dr Namita S Sugandhi, a professor at Hartwick College in the US who is also the co-director of the project.

During excavation work last week, human bones were initially noticed beneath the soil. Further digging led to the unearthing of two complete human skeletons, each measuring approximately 5.5 feet in length, found lying side by side. P7

One of the skeletons excavated at Gaudra Moole Hill in Ballari district

### Tools found at site

Pottery fragments, microlithic tools and evidence related to early human tool use found around the skeletons

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